PCC4Refugees E-Newsletter!

The Trump Administration proposed FY20 Refugee admissions at an all-time low

The proposed Presidential Determination for Refugee admissions will be 18,000 for fiscal year 2020, down from 30,000 admissions in fiscal year 2019 and a fraction of the 85,000 cap proposed by former president Barack Obama in 2016. This marks an all-time low for the US and threatens to dismantle the resettlement infrastructure. Please advocate for refugees locally and nationally to keep resettlement strong!

Latest News

Presidential Determination and a new Executive Order

In September, President Trump proposed to cut the refugee admissions ceiling to 18,000 refugees for FY20, an all-time low. To learn more about the decision and about the Presidential Determination, you can read this news release from the International Rescue Committee (IRC).

Additionally, President Trump signed an Executive Order that gives state and local governments the authority to refuse to accept refugees for the first time in history. Advocates worry the E.O. could completely block refugees from entering states with executive branches opposed to resettlement.

RPCVs can take action locally and nationally to advocate for refugees, educate communities and elected officials, and serve refugees who have arrived. To learn more about what you can do to help, please read here.
Refugee communities in Greece need your help!

In the last 3 months, the number of refugees on the island of Lesvos, Greece has surged. Housing conditions are very poor and resources extremely limited. Fortunately NGO’s provide some measure of relief. They offer services in education, recreation, health, hygiene and much more. Some depend almost completely on volunteer help. RPCVs’ experience with acculturation, flexibility, and limited resources are ideal in these situations. Learn more about this fulfilling opportunity, by visiting the Peace Corps Community for Refugees website.

Please join our webinar on October 30, 2019 at 8:00pm Eastern Time to learn more about opportunities and to hear more from RPCVs who have worked on the island. Visit this link on the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) website to register for the webinar. Hope to see you there!

Kennedy Center REACH event recap

The Kennedy Center REACH opening festival was a massive success, with over 8000 attendees in a single day. This success was in large part due to the creativity, flexibility and commitment to the Peace Corps experience and our community.

As part of the celebration, PCC4Refugees hosted a panel at the Kennedy Center REACH opening festival featuring three RPCVs: Ron Ison (Cincinnati, OH), volunteer in Cincinnati; Eirene Chen (Paris, France), volunteer in Lesvos, Greece; and Glenn Blumhorst (Washington, D.C.), President of NPCA and volunteer with asylum seekers in El Paso, TX. The panelists shared their experiences working with refugees. We were also joined by refugee youth from Cincinnati, Ohio who shared their experiences of arriving and living in the US with event visitors including Nshimirimana Liliane who spoke eloquently about her experience of living in the US. Thank you to everyone who traveled to Washington, DC and visited with us!
RPCV panelists discuss Refugee issues in NYC following Refugee documentary

In partnership with the New York City Peace Corps Association, Darcy Neill, PCC4Refugees member and former Peace Corps Country Director in Morocco and Jordan, took part in a panel discussion following a documentary screening of American Beat: Cops and Refugees Join Forces in Boise at the New School in New York City on October 21. The panel also featured RPCVs from the International Rescue Committee, the Robin Hood Foundation, and the Director/Producer of the film.

In 2018, only around 22,000 refugees were resettled in the United States. The documentary shows the local, human interactions that take place when refugees from Syria, Iraq, and the Democratic Republic of Congo attempt to create new lives for themselves America.

How the US built the world's largest immigrant detention system

The Guardian wrote a detailed article in September about the US's immigrant detention system, including the growth of facilities at the US Southern Border where Asylum Seekers stay. Forty years ago, this system did not exist. As of September 10, 2019 over 52,000 were actively detained. Increased awareness about this system can prevent misinformation from spreading and improve advocacy efforts for asylum seekers and other detainees. Please take a moment to read.

Please update your address

We’ve shared dozens of local advocacy issues and updates tailored to our members. So PCC4Refugees can target important advocacy issues, we request members to
please update their addresses in SilkStart, and/or the state and U.S. Congressional legislative district. To do so, please visit our website and Login to the platform to access your contact information.

We’re becoming more active in advocacy on refugee and immigration issues, and hope to communicate further. Thank you in advance!

Community Support Efforts

Learn what others in the Peace Corps Community and NPCA Affiliate Groups have been doing to support refugees in our featured Articles.

Articles

Are you serving refugees in your community? We would love to hear what you're up to! Your answers help us stay connected to Peace Corps Community efforts by sharing stories and experiences with others through outreach. Please take a short survey!

Helpful Resources

Find helpful resources for supporting refugees

Resources

Connect with Us:

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Contact:

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